

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

NEA-14 IO-14 DRC-01 /104 W

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P 170835Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0783

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 5535

USIAC

FOR IEA, IOR/M, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO MA'ALLOT

1. MAJOR HONG KONG LEFTISTS DAILIES MAY 17 MAINTAINED THEIR SILENCE OVER THE MA'ALOT INCIDENT, NOR HAS THE OFFICIAL PRC NEWS AGENCY, NCNA MADE ANY REFERENCE TO IT. RELATED EVENTS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM THE NON-COMMUNIST PAPERS, FOUR OF WHICH OFFERED EDITORIAL COMMENT. WHILE ALL OF THEM CONDEMNED THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS, TWO PAPERS ALSO DEPLORED THE ISRAELI REPRISAL.

2. MING PAO SAID: "...MOST OF THE WORLD SYMPATHIZE WITH THEIR (THE PALESTINIANS') PLIGHT OF HAVING BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND LIVE IN EXILE IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. BUT PEOPLE CANNOT BUT STRONGLY CONDEMN THEIR REPEATED SLAUGHTERING OF INNOCENT VICTIMS. THE MASSACRE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FAR EXCEEDS IN RUTHLESSNESS THE HIJACKING OF PLANES AND SLAUGHTERING OF ISRAELI ATHLETES IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE. WHEN THE KILLING OF UNARMED ADULTS IS ALREADY UNFORGIVABLE, KILLING SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IS OF COURSE EVEN MORE SO." CALLING SUCH ACTS SIGNS OF "PSYCHOLOGICAL  
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IMMATURITY," MING PAO SAID MATURE PEOPLE SHOULD FACE

REALITY AND TRY TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES RATHER THAN TAKING OUT THEIR ANGER ON DEFENSELESS CHILDREN.

3. SING PAO REGARDED THE MA'ALOT BLOODSHED AS "A MOST PAINFULLY REGRETTABLE INCIDENT" AND AN "UNWISE", MOVE BY THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WHO, THE PAPER SAID, "MUST FIRST WIN INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY." IT ADDED: "ISRAEL, TOO, WILL NOT GAIN SYMPATHY BY BOMBING PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN REPRISAL." SINGA PAO ALSO DISMISSED THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE AS AN "EXAGGERATION" AND "AFTERTHOUGHT," POINTING OUT THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD ALREADY SPELLED OUT THEIR DEMAND AS THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

4. ENGLISH SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BARBAROUS MASSACRE AT MA'ALOT," SAID IN PART:

5. QUOTE - IN THE BLOODY CHRONICLES OF ARAB TERRORISM THE SLAUGHTER OF ISRAELI SCHOOL-CHILDREN BY PALESTINE FANATICS IN THE TOWN OF MA'ALOT MUST RANK AS THE MOST BARBAROUS AND INHUMAN YET PERPETRATED.

6. NO WORDS CAN ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THE DEPRAVITY WHICH SINGLES OUT CHILDREN TO BE HELD HOSTAGE AT GUNPOINT FOR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES...

7. THE PALESTINIANS WERE OBVIOUSLY BENT ON THROWING A VERY LARGE AND BLOODY SPANNER INTO THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND THE ISRAEL AND SYRIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR A CEASEFIRE.

8. THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS NOW SUSPENDED HIS DISCUSSIONS MIGHT APPEAR TO THE PALESTINIANS AS A TRIUMPH AND VINDICATION OF THEIR EFFORTS, THOUGH IN FACT THE ONUS ON ALL CONCERNED TO SETTLE THIS FUTILE AND EXASPERATING CONFLICT IS NOW GREATER THAN EVER.

9. INDEED THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING SYRIA TO SEE WHETHER IT TRIES TO EXPLOIT THIS INCIDENT BY WRIGGLING OUT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

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10. CERTAINLY VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENT MUST SHARE PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DASTARDLY CRIME FOR THE FINANCIAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL AND MORAL ENCOURAGEMENT THAT THEY HAVE AT VARIOUS TIMES GIVEN TO THE TERRORISTS, PARTICULARLY SYRIA...

11. HOW MANY MORE ABOMINABLE OUTRAGES THEY (TERRORISTS)

PLAN TO INFLICT BEFORE SANITY IS RESTORED CAN ONLY BE  
GUESSED. BUT AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD FERVENTLY PRAYS  
FOR PEACE FOR ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE PALESTINIAN  
TERRORISTS HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION OF WAGING UNREMIT-  
TING WAR.

12. UNQUESTIONABLY THIS FESTERING SORE CANNOT BE  
IGNORED BUT MUST BE DEALT WITH AS PART OF THE OVERALL SOLU-  
TION OF MIDDLE EAST BOUNDARIES, THOUGH BRUTAL AND BESTIAL  
MASSACRES OF THE KINDS PERPETRATED AT MA'ALOT CANNOT HELP  
TO ADVANCE WORLD SYMPATHY FOR THE PALESTINE CAUSE, OR  
PERSUADE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE CON-  
CESSIONS TO THOS WHO SO BLATANTLY DEFY THE LAWS OF CIVILIZED  
CONDUCT. UNQUOTE  
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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P 170835Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0784

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 5535

USIAC

FOR IEA, IOR/M, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO MA'ALLOT

13. EXCERPTS FROM THE ENGLISH HONGKONG STANDARD EDITORIAL  
"SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENT," INCLUDE: QUOTE FANATICISM  
COMBINED WITH SENSELESS ADVENTURISM HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES

OF 20 INNOCENT CHILDREN IN THE ISRAELI HILLTOP TOWN OF  
MA'ALOT.

14. EVEN THE STRUNCHEST CHAMPIONS OF THE ARAB CAUSE MUST  
HAVE FELT SICK AT HEART AS DETAILS OF THE MASSACRE FILTERED  
IN.

15. IN AN EMOTION-PACKED STATEMENT THE ISRAELI PRIME  
MINISTER MRS. GOLDA MEIR TOLD HER NATION: "ON THE BODIES  
OF CHILDREN WE DO NOT FIGHT WARS." SHE WAS ONLY PARTLY RIGHT.

16. THE WORLD HOLDS NO BRIEF FOR THE INSANE TERROR TACTICS  
OF THE PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS...

17. ...THE FEDAYEEN HAVE DEGRADED THEMSELVES AND THEIR  
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CAUSE THROUGH THE SENSELESS SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS...

18. THEY HAVE ALIENATED INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, BUT  
THE EXTREMISTS AMONG THE PALESTINIAN ORGANISATIONS SEEM TO  
FEEL THAT PUBLIC RELATIONS HAS VERY LITTLE VALUE IN THEIR  
FIGHT AGAINST ISRAEL.

19. THE TIMING OF THE LATEST ADVENTURE BY THE PALESTINIANS  
EXTREMISTS IN ISRAEL COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A GRIM WARNING  
TO THE SEEKER OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "THERE CAN BE  
NO PEACE WITHOUT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION." IT TOOK THEM  
30 LIVES TO SPELL OUT THIS MESSAGE. BUT UNLESS COMPLETE  
INSANITY PREVAILS IN ALL PARTIES, IT LOOKS AS IF THE SEARCH  
FOR PEACE WILL CONTINUE.

20. WHILE PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS ARE OBVIOUSLY GUILTY THE  
ISRAELI AUTHORITIES BE ABOSOLVED OF VARYING DEGREES  
OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE BLOOD-LEETING AT MA'ALOT...

21. ...THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT MORE PRAGMATISM AND LESS  
MUSCLE FLEXING WOULD HAVE SAVED THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN.

22. WHERE DO THE ISRAELI LEADERS AND THE PALESTINIAN  
GUERILLAS GO FROM HERE?

23. THE IMMEDIATE RETALIATION BY THE ISRAELIS WHO BOMBED  
REFUGEES CAMPS IN THE LEBANON SHOWS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE  
WILLING TO CONTINUE TO KILL INNOCENTS TO APPEASE BLOOD  
LUSTS OF THEIR OWN.

24. ONLY IF BOTH SIDES ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THE  
PRAGMATIC MINORITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAMPS WILL  
COMMONSENSE PREVAIL AND THIS SENSELESS BLOOD-SPILLING STOP.

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